Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 OMB-01 CG-00 AID-20 IGA-02 COA-02 EB-11

TRSE-00 DODE-00 INT-08 RSR-01 /128 W ------ 110423

R 042130 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4860
INFO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL BREMEN
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL BONN 6473

E. O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PBOR, IC, GW

SUBJECT: ICELANDIC- FRG FISHING DISPUTE

REF: STATE 79012; BREMEN 148

- 1. VOLLMAR (FONOFF LEGAL DIVISION) REVIEWED FOR EMBOFF THE PRESENT SITUATION IN THE FRG- ICELAND FISHERIES DISPUTE FOLLOWING NEGOTIATING SESSION APRIL 3 AND 4 AND THE VISIT OF BREMEN SENATE- PRESIDENT KOSCHNICK TO REYKJAVIK IN MID- APRIL. VOLLMAR ADVISES THAT THE FRG, AND APPARENTLY THE ICELANDERS, WERE WILLING TO SEEK AN "INTERIM" SOLUTION AND HAD EXCHANGED PROPOSALSK AT THE APRIL MEETING. THE FONOFF FEELS THAT SUCH A SOLUTION IS WELL WITHIN THE REALM OF THE POSSIBLE, ALTHOUGH LITTLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE SO FAR.
- 2. ACCORDING TO VOLLMAR, THE FRG IS PREPARED TO LIMIT THE SIZE OF THE FRG CATCH SUFFICIENLY TO SATISFY THE ICELANDERS' LEGITIMATE INTERESTS. THE PRINCIPAL CHECK AT THIS POINT IS THE ICELANDERS' S INFLEXIBLE NEGOTIATING CONFIDENTIAL

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APPROACH, WHICH HAS BEEN DIRECTED TOWARD GEGRAPHICAL LIMITATIONS FOR THE FISHING FLEETS. THE FONOFF HAS SOME HOPE THAT THE ICELANDERS' WILL MODIFY THIS APPROACH AT THE NEXT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS. NEXT ROUND EXPECTED LATE THIS MONTH, ALTHOUGH DATE HAS NOT YET BEEN SET.

3. THE KOSCHNIK TRIP WAS DESCRIBED BY VOLLMAR AS A PUBLIC RELATIOS EXERCISE, I. E., AN ATTEMPT TO EXPLAIN TO THE ICELANDERS THAT THE FRG ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN THE FISHERIES PROBLEM, THOUGH LIMITED TO A RELATIVELY SMALL SECTOR OF THE FRG ECONOMY, ARE QUITE REAL. THE FONOFF CONSIDERS THE TRIP TO HAVE BEEN A SUCCESS FROM THIS POINT OF VIEW AND AN APPROPRIATE DISPLAY OF THE CHANCELLOR'S INTEREST IN THE PROBLEM.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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To: BREMEN EUR LONDON NATO REYKJAVIK SECSTATE WASHDC

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